Maharashtra and the 250 MW single unit lignite based Neyveli Thermal Power Project of M/s ST-CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu, through a revised procedure. Government of India counter-guarantee to these projects have been issued in August, 1999.

The Ib Valley project was re-negotiated by the Government of Orissa before construction could commence and, therefore, techno-economic clearance was issued afresh to this project on 26.2.1999. Issue of Counter Guarantee of Government of India was approved in the case of this project and the Mangalore thermal Power Project of M/s Cogentrix Energy Inc., on 22.12.1999.

Mirage Manufacturing Industry

*253. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKATRAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether France proposes to set up a Mirage manufacturing industry in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cost of the proposed Mirage to be purchased by India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Appointments in Delhi Police on Compassionate Grounds

254. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons appointed on compassionate grounds in Delhi Police during the last three years, category-wise;

(b) the number of applications received during the last three years and the number of SCs/STs among them; and

(c) the number of pending cases, category-wise, including SCs/ STs and by when they are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) During the last three years from 1st July, 1997 to 30th June, 2000, Delhi Police offered appointment on compassionate grounds to 327 applicants, of whom 240 applicants have taken over their assignments. The category-wise break-up of the 240 applicants so appointed is as under:

Scheduled Castes	39
Scheduled Tribes	3
Other Backward Classes	30
General	168

(b) The number of applications received by Delhi Police during the period in question was 726, of which 128 Applications were made by the Scheduled Castes applicants and 10 by Scheduled Tribes applicants.

(c) The number of applications pending consideration as on 1st July, 2000 was 107 as per details given below:

Scheduled Castes	15
Scheduled Tribes	2
Other Backward Classes	9
General	81

These applications are slated to be taken up for consideration on merits by the Screening Committee in its next meeting.

Identification of Drought Prone Areas

*255. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the guidelines provided for identification of drought prone areas have not been followed by several States; and

(b) if so, the States as on 1999, which have not followed the